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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE:

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SUBJECT Report of an Escaped

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The following is an abridgement of one of several similar reports received from workers who have managed to escape deportation to Russia. The account on which this report is based was fully documented with names, addresses, dates, and other particulars, which appear to be reliable.

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"On [redacted] 1946, at 0639 hours, there was a noise outside my home. When I opened the window I saw a Russian officer and three soldiers under arms and a German policeman; my landlady was with them. They said they were looking for me. I went to the door and was asked my name by the officer. Simultaneously the soldiers maneuvered to bar my flight. The officer went through all the rooms and looked over everything. Then I had to sit down while my papers were checked. When it was established that I was the person for whom they were looking, the German policeman departed, since that was the end of his job. The officer now told me that the plant was being moved and that everybody had to go along to Russia. Wife, children, furniture, relatives, and everything else could be taken. When he asked about my wife, I told him that I was not married, but lived with my parents. He then said that my parents should come along, to which I objected, saying that they were too old. After a long argument, he acquiesced. Then he asked my father whether I had a fiancée, to which my father said yes. He then told me that a fiancée is the same as a wife and that she would be taken along. I replied that she lived 100 kilometers away, whereupon he said that we would drive there immediately to fetch her.... After another long argument, he abandoned the idea.

3. "Then came the order to pack my things. The Russian soldiers were to help. I explained that I did not have many possessions, but they said that I could take as much as I liked. It was now 0730 hours and I was given two hours to pack. Since resistance was useless, I obeyed.

4. "A waiting truck took us to the railroad station at Brehna [redacted], 21 kilometers from Halle. There a train was standing ready, and we were met by officers and shown to a compartment. I shared a compartment with a foreman from the same plant. The train was under heavy guard; there was a soldier with a sub-machine

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- 2 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

gun every five meters. We arrived at 1000 hours Tuesday and remained in Brehna until Wednesday afternoon. Tuesday evening we received a warm soup and on Wednesday morning a package with food, mainly fruit, a piece of bacon, and 300 cigarettes. We were not told how long that was to last.

5. "The train was shunted here and there and, on Wednesday evening, we arrived in Halle again. On the way I saw four similar trains in which I recognized various acquaintances. My train consisted of twelve coaches, mainly large, D-Zug coaches, and fifteen freight cars.
 6. "In Halle we received a hot noodle soup, brought directly to our compartment window. We could not leave the train. Two railroad workers told me that the train would leave in an hour and would make its last stop, for coal and water, in Eilenburg. The train left at 2000 hours. About 70 percent of the deportees were very depressed, and nearly all of them were unhappy. I was not able to find anyone who agreed to the situation or who had signed a contract. We were all told only that we would have to remain in Russia five years; there was no mention of a contract.
 7. "After the train left Eilenburg, the guards came in off the steps and went into their compartment. About three or four kilometers farther, I jumped out of the window. I landed on the ballast, suffering no bodily harm except for a few bruises and sprains. I lay quietly till the train was by and assumed that no one noticed anything.
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8. "I ran half a kilometer across the fields and then, after an hour's walk, approached Eilenburg. I went to the railroad station, where I spent the night, and the next morning took the train to [REDACTED] where my fiancée lives. I stayed there until Saturday afternoon and then returned to Halle. There I stayed one night with a war comrade. Before dawn I left and roamed about the town, and then looked up Mr. A. I stayed with him from 27 to 29 October, and he bought me railroad tickets for the trip to the American Sector of Berlin, where I now hope to live in safety and to enjoy human rights."

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